

# THE Trumpet

The monthly newsletter of the Office of the State Fire Marshal



The Trumpet—May 2013

For this Summer of Fun...

*Make Fire Safety #1*

OFFICE OF THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL  
CELEBRATING 100 YEARS



## Cover Story



8

Campfire &  
BBQ Safety

9

Commercial  
Kitchen Hood  
Cleaning

14-15

Celebrating  
100 Years of  
the OSFM

## [Inside This Issue]

### In Each Issue

3

From the Fire Marshal

4

By the Numbers

5-7

Hot OSFM News

*Boiler Inspections Move to OSFM*

*New Agency Brochures*

*Changes in Kansas Fireworks Act*

*OSFM Goes Bats*

*Explosive Awareness Training*

9-10

Fire Prevention

*Safety with Spring Cleaning Chemicals*

*Spring Cleaning: 5 Ways to Clean Up Fire Hazards*

11

Haz-Mat

*Dealing Safely with Garden Chemicals*

12-13

Investigation

*Arson Awareness Week*

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@ksfiremarshal

## [From the Fire Marshal]

It appears that winter has finally relented and we may be able to store away our coats, mittens and sweaters for another season as our attention turns to making plans for some outdoor fun.

In this issue of The Trumpet, we focus on making it a fire-safe Spring and Summer, with safe handling of chemicals for both cleaning and gardens, and safe campfires and BBQ grills.

With the passing of both the Boiler Bill and the Fireworks Bill, our office is now taking on greater levels of responsibility. We are now clearly on a stronger foundation than just a couple of years ago, when legislation was introduced which would have disbanded our agency altogether.

We were very pleased with the turnout at our Explosive Awareness Training workshops we conducted throughout the state in March and April. As we watched the tragic events from Boston and West, Texas, we are reminded of the dangers that first responders put themselves in every time they receive the call. We honor and remember those emergency personnel who lost their lives while fighting the blaze from the explosion at the fertilizer factory in Texas.

As we Spring forward into warmer weather, remember to stay fire safe and know your OSFM is ready and willing to be of assistance. We are only a phone call or email away.

Sincerely,



Doug Jorgensen  
Fire Marshal



THE  
**Trumpet**

May 2013

### Fire Marshal

Doug Jorgensen

### Editor

Kevin Doel  
Public Information Officer

Kevin.Doel@ksfm.ks.gov

785-296-4290

### Our Mission

The Office of the State Fire Marshal is dedicated to protecting the lives and property of the people of Kansas from the hazards of fire, explosion and hazardous materials by fostering a safe environment through education, inspection, enforcement, regulation, investigation, hazardous material incident mitigation, data collection, and by acting as a liaison to the Kansas Fire Service.

All of the efforts of the Office are designed to reduce the deaths, injuries and property losses of Kansans.

### Trumpet Deadline

For information on receiving the State Fire Marshal *Trumpet* or to submit your meeting notices, training announcements, articles, photos or other information, please contact Kevin Doel. Photos should be submitted as a .jpg or .tif attachment to an email. All materials are due by the 20th of the month prior to publication.



## By the Numbers

5% of all residential building fires were intentionally-set. See the article on Arson Prevention Week on page 12.

65 fire departments in Kansas have Certified Fire Investigators. There are a total of 199 CFIs in the state.

Unattended cooking was a factor in 34% of reported home cooking fires. Two-thirds of home cooking fires started with ignition of food or other cooking materials. (source:

NFPA.org)

## HOT NEWS FROM THE OSFM

### New Law Transfers Boiler Inspections to OSFM

On March 25, Governor Sam Brownback signed into law SB 135, a bill that transfers responsibility for boiler inspections from the Department of Labor to the OSFM.

With this new responsibility comes new personnel being transferred to our office as well. One chief boiler inspector and five field inspector positions will be joining the OSFM team. The agency will also be hiring an administrative assistant for this unit.

Boilers and pressure vessels that fall under the Kansas Boiler Safety Act shall be constructed to a recognized code of construction and be registered with the National Board of Boiler and Pressure Vessel Inspectors.

All new boiler and pressure vessel installations, second hand, relocated, repaired



and those moved from other jurisdictions must be reported to this office for inspection scheduling, by the installer, owner or operator, prior to being placed in operation.

All welded repairs and alterations on boilers or pressure vessels shall be performed by a firm that holds a National Board "R" Stamp. Repair forms are filed in this office.

Responsibilities for the Boiler Inspection & Safety Unit include:

- Oversee inspection, installation and repairs on all boilers and pressure vessels that are subject to the Kansas Boiler Safety Act, K.S.A. 44-913 et seq
- Maintain historical and current boiler safety records
- Issue operating certificates
- Perform the first inspection on all boilers and pressure vessels

### Agency Brochures Now Available

Our office has just published new agency brochures that let the public know more about our role in protecting Kansans from the hazards of fire, explosions and hazardous chemicals. If you would like to receive a brochure, or a supply of them, please contact our office.



## New Law Makes Changes to Kansas Fireworks Act – Including Sale of Bottle Rockets

### *What this bill does and does not do*

Senate Substitute for House Bill 2167 was signed into law by Governor Brownback on April 17, 2013. This law adds a number of administrative procedures to the Kansas Fireworks Act and relocates bottle rocket provisions that have been elsewhere in statute to the Kansas Fireworks Act. The section of HB 2167 that has generated the most questions to the Office of the State Fire Marshal pertains to the selling of bottle rockets within the state – which had been completely banned since 1978.

#### **What this bill *does* allow...**

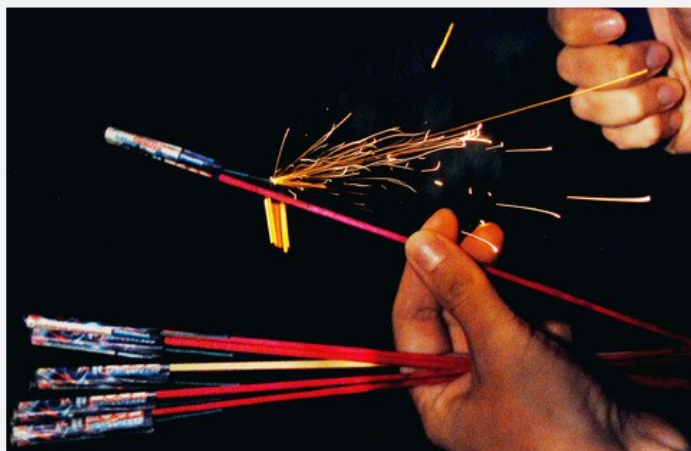
Under the new statute, fireworks wholesalers and manufacturers who are licensed by the Office of the State Fire Marshal may now possess, transport, and sell bottle rockets within Kansas to other registered fireworks dealers for resale *out-of-state*.

The purpose for this provision is that the Kansas fireworks industry has been at a competitive disadvantage with those based in neighboring states. Until now, should a fireworks dealer in Mis-

souri, for example, want to buy bottle rockets from a wholesaler, they would want to conduct their business with wholesalers or manufacturers in states that allow the sale of bottle rockets. This impediment to Kansas-based fireworks dealers negatively impacted the sales for their entire product lines as retailers from other states could purchase all the products they wanted to buy for resale from companies in states other than Kansas.

#### **What HB 2167 *does not* allow**

The sale of bottle rockets to consumers and the use of bottle rockets by consumers in Kansas are still not allowed. Not only does this type of firework have a record of causing personal injury to users and by-standers alike, bottle rockets also present a significant fire hazard. When a bottle rocket detonates, the casing can burn from a few seconds up to a few minutes, causing fires that put property and lives at risk.



#### **Reporting and licensing requirements of HB 2167**

The registered seller or manufacturer of bottle rockets is required to notify the OSFM of all certifications for resale of bottle rockets to out-of-state businesses. The bill clarifies that Kansas registration is not required of any persons who purchase and transport bottle rockets for out-of-state resale, and that such persons are required to certify such intent to the seller.

The bill requires those dealers / distributors and manufacturers that store bottle rockets in Kansas for the purpose of selling them to out-of-state customers to obtain the appropriate Bottle Rocket permit per statute and regulations.

## HOT NEWS FROM THE OSFM

### OSFM Goes BATS



At the 125<sup>th</sup> annual meeting of the Kansas Fire Fighters Association, State Fire Marshal Doug Jorgensen announced the OSFM will begin using the Bomb Arson Tracking System (BATS) effective July 1, 2013, and all local fire departments with Certified Fire Investigators will need to plan now to transition to this new system.

BATS is an invaluable tool to aid fire departments and fire marshals in their efforts to track arson incidents, manage investigation data, and apprehend arsonists.

After researching various report programs for bomb and arson incidents, to include the current state reporting system and input from other investigators, the Office of the State Fire Marshal made the decision to switch to BATS.

Developed by the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF), BATS is a web-based system which enables public safety agencies to share information locally and nationally. The Office of the State Fire Marshal has been entering data into the BATS system for several years now as a secondary system.

Starting in July 2013 all of the state's report information will be entered into this national database.

A key advantage of switching to BATS is that it is incredibly easy to use by local fire departments and will give investigators the ability to search a nationwide database of fire-related incidents – either by type of fire or by suspect. With this data in hand, investigators will be better equipped to identify trends and potentially identify cases involving serial arsonists.

"Currently fire investigators are only able to search through data that's currently in our database, which isn't a complete picture because not all agencies have complied with reporting details on fires in Kansas," says Jorgensen.

"Switching to BATS will make it easier for local fire departments to report fires and arsons which, as a result, will provide us with much better and more comprehensive data for reducing fires and prosecuting arsonists."

BATS operates on many levels to support both local investigative needs and national collaboration

and trend spotting. For example, investigators will be able to use BATS to find similarities in motives, device components, suspects and crime methodologies for possible investigative leads. Images of arson scenes, improvised explosive devices and crime scenes can also be shared through the BATS secure Web connection.

Further, investigators will be able to capture details of bomb and arson cases, casualties, dollar losses, fire descriptors, collateral crimes and device components. BATS also allows investigators to use the program as a case management system, enabling them to build their investigations in BATS while maintaining operational security.

There are currently over 7,000 authorized BATS users from more than 1,500 local, state, tribal, and federal law enforcement and public safety agencies across the United States. The system is free to use by local fire departments and the Office of the State Fire Marshal. All local certified investigators will need to obtain an account with ATF by July 1, 2013 and begin entering their required case information according. If the local fire investigators do not have an account, they can go to: <http://www.atf.gov/applications/bats/index.html>.

It is critical for fire department personnel to understand that BATS is not intended to replace the National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS). While the primary mission of NFIRS is to collect fire incident information, BATS is dedicated to documenting and supporting the resulting post-incident investigation in cases involving fire or explosives.



## Explosive Awareness Classes

Members of the Investigation Division, led by the instruction of Fire Investigator Brad Agnew, conducted six day-long Explosive Awareness Training programs throughout the state during the months of March and April. Over 150 first responders attended the training, including law enforcement, fire, medical, and emergency management personnel. Topics covered included overview of explosive materials and their effects, safety issues, current events related to explosives, live demonstrations of explosive effects.

If any agency would like to host this class, please contact the Investigation Division.



# Campfire Safety

By Mike Wikle



With Memorial Day and Summer around the corner, take time now and prepare for fun and making happy memories with vacations, reunions and picnics. Taking a few simple precautions beforehand, knowing fire safety tips and following simple instructions will help everyone enjoy a safe summer.

- Build campfires where they will not spread, away from dry grass and leaves and never under overhanging trees.
- Keep campfires small, and don't let them get out of hand.
- Keep plenty of water and a shovel around to douse the fire when you're done. Stir it and douse it again with water.
- Never leave campfires unattended.
- It is important to follow the park's rules for the use and extinguishing of campfires.

## How to Extinguish a Camp Fire



1. Keep a shovel & water near the fire.



2. Drown the fire with 5 gallons of water.



3. Stir the coals to wet any embers.



4. Feel to make sure coals are Dead Out

## BBQ Safety Tips



- Position the grill well away from siding, deck railings and out from under eaves and branches.
- Place the grill a safe distance from lawn games, play areas and foot traffic.
- Keep children and pets away from the grill area: declare a three-foot "safe zone" around the grill.
- Use long-handled grilling tools to have plenty of clearance from heat and flames.
- Periodically remove grease or fat buildup in trays below grill so it cannot be ignited by a hot grill.
- If you determined your grill has a gas leak by smell or the soapy bubble test and there is no flame:
- Turn off the propane tank and grill.
- If the leak stops, get the grill serviced by a professional before using it again.
- If the leak does not stop, call the fire department.
- If you smell gas while cooking, immediately get away from the grill and call the fire department. Do not attempt to move the grill.

## Charcoal Grills

- Use the proper starter fluid and store it out of reach of children, and away from heat sources.
- Never add charcoal starter fluid when coals or kindling have already been ignited.
- Never use any flammable or combustible liquid other than charcoal starter fluid.

NFPA 2008 edition section 5.7.3.2, All propane cylinders manufactured after April 2001 must have overfill protection devices (OPD). OPDs shut off the flow of propane before capacity is reached, limiting the potential for release of propane gas if the cylinder heats up. OPDs are easily identified by their triangular-shaped hand wheel, as well it is stamped "OPD".

## Propane Grills

- Check the propane cylinder hose for leaks before using it for the first time each year.
- A light soap and water solution applied to the hose will quickly reveal escaping
- Propane by releasing bubbles.

Use only equipment bearing the mark of an independent testing laboratory. Follow the manufacturers' instructions on how to set up the grill and maintain it.

Never store propane cylinders in buildings or garages. If you store a gas grill inside during the winter, disconnect the cylinder and leave it outside.



# Commercial Kitchen Hood Cleaning

By Seth Toomay and Stephen Fenske

Recently a facility dietary manager called our office to ask how often their kitchen hood should be cleaned. Following is what the code requires, which is good information for those who prepare meals for their clients and want to provide the safe conditions for their staff:

## Cleaning of Exhaust Systems

Upon inspection, if the exhaust system is found to be contaminated with deposits from grease-laden vapors, the contaminated portions of the exhaust system shall be cleaned by a properly trained, qualified, and certified company or person(s) acceptable to the authority having jurisdiction.

Hoods, grease removal devices, fans, ducts, and other appurtenances shall be cleaned to remove combustible contaminants prior to surfaces becoming heavily contaminated with grease or oily sludge.

At the start of the cleaning process, electrical switches that could be activated accidentally shall be locked out.

Components of the fire suppression system shall not be rendered inoperable during the cleaning process.

Fire-extinguishing systems shall be permitted to be rendered inoperable during the cleaning process where serviced by properly trained and qualified persons.

Flammable solvents or other flammable cleaning aids shall not be used.

Cleaning chemicals shall not be applied on fusible links or other detection devices of the automatic extinguishing system.

After the exhaust system is cleaned, it shall not be coated with powder or other substance.

When cleaning procedures are completed, all access panels (doors) and cover plates shall be restored to their normal operational condition.

When an access panel is removed, a service company label or tag preprinted with the name of the company and giving the date of inspection or cleaning shall be affixed near the affected access panels.

Dampers and diffusers shall be positioned for proper airflow.

When cleaning procedures are completed, all electrical switches and system components shall be returned to an operable state.

When an exhaust cleaning service is used, a certificate showing the name of the servicing company, the name of the person performing the work, and the date of inspection or cleaning shall be maintained on the premises.

After cleaning or inspection is completed, the exhaust cleaning company and the person performing the work at the location shall provide the owner of the system with a written report that also specifies areas that



Photo by Melink Corp.

were inaccessible or not cleaned. (Source-NFPA 96)

Remember, it is the responsibility of the facility operator to evaluate and schedule the proper individual for the required cleaning. We as inspectors want all to be safe and do the necessary functions to keep all safe. Prevention works when all do their part. Be safe.

## How often should you expect an inspection?

Type or Volume of Cooking	Frequency of Inspection
Systems serving high-volume cooking operations, such as 24-hour cooking, charbroiling or wok cooking	Monthly
Systems serving moderate-volume cooking operations	Quarterly
Systems serving low-volume cooking operations, such as churches, day camps, seasonal businesses or senior centers	Semi-annually

## SPRING CLEANING:

### 5 ways to clean up fire hazards

1. Avoid storing cleaning materials filled with chemicals under your sink. Clear out old products and dispose of them safely. Opt for natural or nontoxic cleansers.
2. Clear out attics, closets and basements stuffed with items that can feed a fire. Old mattresses, boxes, linens and papers are perfect places for a fire to start. Donate items that aren't used to shelters or secondhand stores, and dispose of junk in a safe manner.
3. Maintain the yard surrounding your house. Trim bushes, plants and trees, and get rid of large weeds. Removing vegetation clears fuel for any potential fire. Most neighborhoods offer a pickup of yard debris.
4. Make sure that any vegetation around the house is at least 10 feet away from your home and chimney.
5. Keep gutters and roofs clear of leaves and other buildup.

## [From the Prevention Division] Safety with Spring Cleaning Chemicals

By Brenda McNorton

As winter begrudgingly releases its grip across the state and the sun brings in the warmth, many facilities begin cleaning up and maintaining their landscaping and beautification areas, or perhaps even expand or start new ones. With the warmer weather comes all the tools of the trade, including all the fluids to keep them running.

The Office of the State Fire Marshal wants to re-familiarize you with many of the key safety points and regulations regarding use, storage and disposal of these liquids, whether flammable or just plain hazardous. The best place to start looking for key information is of course our website ([www.firemarshal.ks.gov](http://www.firemarshal.ks.gov)), under Fire Fact 091, "Flammable Liquids Use." This guide is a great resource whether you're the maintenance director of your facility, or a D-I-Y'er at home. These liquids need proper storage and handling no matter where they're found.

The best thing you can do when dealing with flammable/hazardous liquids or chemicals is first- recognizing when and where you have them, and secondly- how much you have. It's always safest to store your liquids in a secured location outside of the occupied building, or



Brenda McNorton, OSFM Chief of Prevention Division

if that's not possible, then in a sprinkler-covered area designed as a separate hazardous area. If you typically store greater than 5 gallons, then you are required to store them in an *approved* Flammable Storage Cabinet. The amounts of liquids that can be stored in the approved cabinets vary by the type being stored inside, but no more than 3 cabinets can be located in the same area.

Another safety requirement when using hazardous liquids is ensuring that all transferring containers can safely store the specific liquid you are using and always remember to label your containers with exactly what you are putting into it. If the original container contains any special warnings then a good idea is to either keep that information readily available or transfer the information as well.

No matter how careful we are accidental spills are bound to happen, so ensure that when refueling equipment, always do so in a safe area with equipment

turned off and make sure you have an open area to work in that's well vented, if not outside. Have spill clean-up procedures and materials on hand as well as your fire extinguisher close by. Any cleanup rags or hazardous liquids-covered materials need to be properly disposed of in a metal self-closing container to ensure they cannot pose a safety issue later.

Lastly, as you go through your facilities spring cleaning that there may be many different types and amounts of hazardous liquids in your cabinets that have accumulated over the years that may not be good anymore. A good idea, even in your own homes as well, is to go through and take inventory as the fewer liquids you have, the safer you are becoming. Be responsible and always check with your local municipality as to the safest way to dispose of **any** of your hazardous materials- many areas make it very easy to help you dispose of small quantities of materials.

## [From the Haz-Mat Division] Dealing Safely with Garden Chemicals



### Things to think about:

If you must use pesticides always read the label first and follow the directions to the letter including all precautions and

restrictions.

Purchase only the amount you need this will eliminate the need for disposing of leftover poisonous product.

Use protective measures when handling pesticides as directed by the label, such as wearing impermeable gloves, long pants and long sleeves. Shower, change clothes and wash the clothes you were wearing immediately after using pesticides.

Before using pesticides (indoors or outdoors) remove

children, their toys, and pets from the area and keep them away until the pesticide has dried or as recommended by the label.

Remove or cover any foods or dishes before using pesticides inside.

Be aware of the toxic level signal words on the containers, CAUTION (mildest toxicity), WARNING (more toxic) and DANGER (most toxic).

Symptoms of poisoning may be delayed hours or days.

Follow directions for disposal of empty containers or containers containing leftover chemicals.

Know the number to poison control **1-800-222-1222**. Have it programmed into your cell phone and posted near any land lines. If you get exposed and need to go the hospital, take an uncontaminated container or label with you.

It's time again to break-out the garden chemicals and pesticides. These substances or mixture of substances are intended to prevent, destroy, repel or mitigate any pest. A pesticide is generally a chemical or biological agent (such as a virus, bacterium, antimicrobial or disinfectant) that through its effect deters, incapacitates, kills or otherwise discourages pests. Target pests can include insects, plant pathogens, weeds, mollusks, birds, mammals, fish, nematodes (roundworms) and microbes that destroy property, cause nuisance, spread disease or are vectors for disease.

Pesticides fall into four main categories: herbicides, insecticides, fungicides, and bactericides.

Although there are human benefits to the use of pesticides, they do have drawbacks, such as toxicity to humans and other animals. Of the twelve most dangerous and persistent organic chemicals, nine are pesticides.





## [From the Investigation Division]

U.S. Fire Administration

# Reducing Residential Arson

National Arson Awareness Week May 5-11, 2013



## Arson Awareness Week: What can we all do to prevent residential arson?

The theme for this year's Arson Awareness Week, which is May 5-11, is "Reducing Residential Arson."

Between 2008-2010, an estimated 16,800 intentionally set fires in residential buildings occurred annually in the United States. These fires resulted in an estimated 280 deaths, 775 injuries and

\$593 million in property loss each year.

The FBI documented that 14,717 law enforcement agencies reported 43,412 arsons. Arsons involving single occupancy and other residential structures accounted for 29.3 percent of the total number of arson offenses.

The goal for this year's Arson

Awareness Week is to provide all residents with strategies to combat arson in their neighborhoods. The public can be engaged in Arson Awareness Week by implementing neighborhood cleanups along with improving internal and external security for their homes and abandoned properties.

## Why Arson?

### Curiosity

Curiosity fires are most often set by juveniles. The misuse of fire has many variables including age, motivation for fire-setting behavior, type of fires set, ignition materials used to set the fire, and the child's understanding and limitations of fire. Fire-setting behavior is often a symptom of the problem and may be manifested through stress and crisis in children's lives.

### Vandalism

Vandalism or the criminal offense of malicious mischief can be the result of boredom, peer pressure or even

gang activity. Vandalism is most common at abandoned or vacant homes.

### Concealing Another Crime

Arson is sometimes used to mask or conceal another crime such as murder. The criminal sets the crime scene ablaze hoping that the victim's death will be attributed to the fire and not murder. Other crimes such as burglary and larceny are also commonly covered up by an arson fire.

### Excitement

Most excitement fires are nuisance fires but may escalate to homes. Excitement-motivated arsonists desire the thrill associated with setting the fire and

relish the attention it brings. They rarely intend to injure people.

### Revenge

According to the National Center for the Analysis of Violent Crime, the most common motive (41 percent) for a serial arsonist is revenge. An arsonist will target the home of someone in retaliation for an actual or perceived injustice.

### Insurance Fraud / Arson for Profit

Arson for profit is insurance fraud, a criminal method of obtaining money from a fire loss policy. These senseless insurance crimes put lives at risk and raise premiums for all honest homeowners.

## Arson Facts

- The U.S. Fire Administration's National Fire Incident Reporting System reports an estimated 16,800 intentionally set fires in residential buildings occur annually in the United States. These fires result in an estimated 280 deaths, 775 injuries and \$593 million in property loss each year.
- Five percent of all residential building fires were intentionally set.
- Lighters (22 percent), heat from other open flame or smoking materials (19 percent), and matches (15 percent) were the leading heat sources of intentionally set fires in residential buildings.
- The majority (76 percent) of intentionally set fires in residential buildings occurred in one- or two-family dwellings. An additional 19 percent of fires occurred in multifamily dwellings.
- Rubbish, trash and waste (8 percent); magazines, newspapers and writing paper (7 percent); and uncontained flammable liquids or gas (6 percent) were the items most often first ignited in intentionally set fires in residential buildings.

## Two plead guilty in arson that killed Kansas State researcher



Photo by The Collegian newspaper of Kansas State University

(Associated Press) Two Kansas State University students pleaded guilty Wednesday to arson resulting in death for setting a blaze that killed a university researcher in an effort to create a diversion that would prevent police from finding evidence of another crime.

The U.S. attorney's office said Patrick Martin Scahill, 20, and Virginia Amanda Griese, 19, both of Manhattan, entered the plea in federal court in Topeka. The

Feb. 6 fire killed Vasanta Pallem, a 34-year-old postdoctoral researcher in chemical engineering.

Prosecutors said two other defendants, including Frank Joseph Hanson, who has pleaded guilty, robbed a Manhattan convenience store with Scahill's pistol on the day of the fire.

Later that day, police responding to a report of a disturbance knocked on Scahill's door. Police smelled marijuana smoke, said they were going to seek a warrant to search the residence and left.

Prosecutors said Scahill, Hanson, the other robbery suspect and Griese began discussing ways to divert the attention of law enforcement officers long enough for Scahill to remove narcotics, a firearm and items associated with the robbery from his apartment. Ultimately, Griese bought a 5-gallon gas can and then paid for gas to fill it.

Later, Scahill and Griese drove around looking for something to burn, ultimately settling on a 12-unit apartment complex near Scahill's apartment. Prosecutors said Scahill entered the building, emptied the contents of the gas can in the lower level hallway, set the fire and left the building.

Pallem lived on the third floor and died from fumes.

A fifth person charged in the case is accused of accompanying Griese to buy gas and helping Scahill dispose of shoes that reeked of gasoline.

Sentencing is set for July 15. Scahill and Griese face a maximum penalty of life in federal prison.

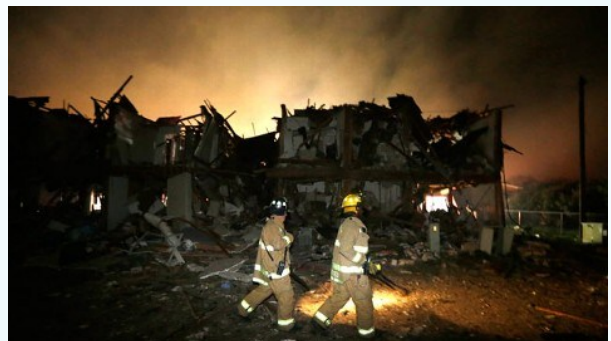
## New Explosive Regs In Development

Members of the Office of the State Fire Marshal have had one meeting with members of the explosive industry to discuss development of new explosive regulations for the State of Kansas.

The meeting was very productive and we agreed that the State will utilize and

adopt the majority of NFPA 495, 2013 edition. With the progress already made, emergency regulations should be in place by this summer and the permanent explosive regulations in place at a later time. Once the temporary regulations are in place, our office will be able to begin processing permits again.

## Honoring the Fallen in West, Texas



*Our thoughts and prayers go out to all those impacted by the devastating explosion at the fertilizer factory in West, Texas, including the deaths of 12 first responders.*



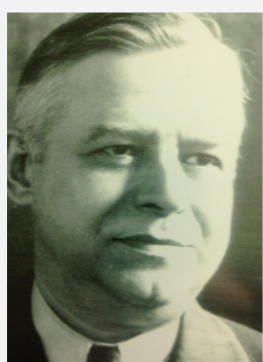
*This year the OSFM celebrates its 100th Year protecting the citizens and guests of Kansas from the dangers of fire, explosions and hazardous chemicals. In this issue, we continue in our series of looking back on the history of our office and fire prevention in Kansas.*

## The First Fire Prevention Day in Kansas

By Elena Nuss

A proclamation designating Fire Prevention Day was issued sometime toward the end of March in 1914. The intent was to give towns time to call meetings to make special preparations for the "observance of the day".

The proclamation outlined the reasons for the day and suggested that there be a general clean-up all over the state. Most Kansas communities printed the full proclamation in their local newspapers, and this was a time when practically every town had a local newspaper. As follow-



Harrison Parkman

up to the proclamation, Harrison Parkman, the first State Fire Marshal, sent letters to all the mayors, fire chiefs, city superintendents, and Boy Scout masters, asking for their help in making the arrangements for the special day, to be April 17<sup>th</sup>.

A lecture, "Fire Loss in Kansas for 1913" by the State Fire Marshal was furnished to each mayor and city superintendent which called attention to the great preventable fire loss of the year,

caused largely by hazardous conditions in and around premises.

A few days prior to Fire Prevention

Day, several hundred newspapers of the state printed notices calling on individuals out in the country and in the towns where no organized movement was under way, to take an individual interest in observing the day.

Three hundred thirty-four (354) incorporated towns out of four hundred ninety-seven (497) are known to have observed Fire Prevention Day that year.

Like today, the methods of observance vary widely, but the results of that first Fire Prevention Day in Kansas, "as a whole were highly satisfactory."

## From the 1915 OSFM Annual Report



The general condition in many towns was thought to be a contributing factor to the number of fires and the extent of damage.

The following questions were asked and the data collected:

- Have you city ordinances regulating the use and storage of explosives, the storage and sale of gasoline, the accumulation of trash in basements and

the rear of buildings, the burning of trash, providing for electrical inspection, the safe construction of chimneys and flues, prohibiting the sale and use of fireworks?

- Have you a building code?
- Does your fire chief regularly inspect the town for the purpose of lessening/eliminating fire hazards?
- Are your municipal ordinances enforced?
- Are the public school teachers making use of the Fire Prevention Bulletins furnished by this department?
- Is your fire department regu-

larly organized?

- Number of men?
- Paid or volunteer?
- Equipment?
- Feet and condition of hose?
- Source of water supply?
- Capacity of reservoir?
- Average and fire pressure?

Mayors were also asked to inform the department of their personal opinions about local conditions, suggestions on how and where to make improvements and suggestions on how the State Fire Marshal could be of assistance.





*The Office of the State Fire Marshal celebrated its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary with a Reception and Open House on April 4 at the Jayhawk Tower's Florentine Room. Employees of the office, former Fire Marshals, members of the fire service and Governor Brownback all enjoyed a fun time of recognizing the service and storied history of the OSFM in Kansas.*



Fire Marshal Doug Jorgensen and Governor Sam Brownback with the Governor's Proclamation recognizing 100 years of service by the OSFM.



Fire Marshal Doug Jorgensen (center) with former Fire Marshals (from L-R): Dan McLaughlin, Jack Alexander, Ed Redman and John Earhart.



Dozens of people attended the reception, enjoying cake, punch and great memories



Even Tana the Fire Dog enjoyed herself.



Parked out front of the Jayhawk Tower was our beautiful Haz-Mat Emergency Response Truck and Trailer.



# Support the Fallen Firefighter Memorial



In 2001 legislation was signed that authorized the construction of a memorial to be built on the Capitol grounds in Topeka to honor Kansas firefighters who have lost their lives in the line of duty.

A scaled replica is housed at the Office of the State Fire Marshal where it is on view. The OSFM also transports the replica to fire service events across the state.

Please send your tax deductible donation to:

Firefighters Memorial Fund  
Attn: Eldred Wenger, DFM  
900 SW Jackson Street, Room 600  
Topeka, KS 66612